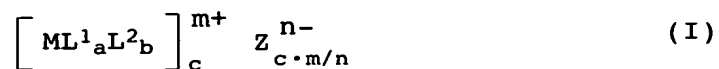


Abstract

5 A process is described for preparing polyoxymethylene by  
contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula I



where

10

M is a metal of group VIII;

L<sup>1</sup> is a ligand having at least one  $\pi$ -electron pair;

15

each L<sup>2</sup> is independently tetrahydrofuran or a ligand which is  
displaceable by tetrahydrofuran;

Z is an anion;

20

a is 1 or 2;

b is an integer from 0 to 4;

c is 1 or 2; and

25

m and n are integers from 1 to 4.

30

35

40

45